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What is claimed is:

- 1. An endarterectomy surgical instrument comprising:
 - (a) a shaft having proximal and distal ends;
 - (b) a head coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the head having an endoscope port and at least one fluid port; and
 - (c) a handle coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, the handle comprising:
 - a gas supply port in fluid communication with the at least one gas port on the head;
 - ii. a flow valve for metering flow of gas between the gas supply port and the at least one fluid port on the head; and
 - iii. a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope.
- 2. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a saline solution inlet coupled to the handle for coupling a flow of saline solution to the at least one fluid port on the head.
- 3. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein a fluid connection of the handle to the head of the shaft is provided through a first lumen.
- 4. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising an endoscope for providing optical coupling through a second lumen between the distal and proximal ends of the shaft.
- 5. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein a fluid connection of the handle to the head of the shaft is provided through a first lumen, further comprising an endoscope for providing optical coupling through a second lumen between the distal and proximal ends of the shaft.
- 6. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein the first lumen is identical to the second lumen.
- 7. The endartectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a grasping device, the device having a retracted configuration and a

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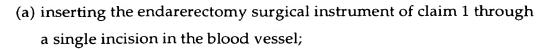
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- deployed configuration wherein the grasping device extends away from the head in the deployed configuration.
- 8. The endartectomy surgical instrument of claim 7, further comprising a deployment control disposed on the handle of the instrument and in mechanical communication with the grasping device.
- 9. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 7 and 8, wherein the grasping device is a barb.
- 10. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 7 and 8, wherein the grasping device is a hook.
- 11. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 8, wherein the deployment control is a slide.
 - 12. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 8, wherein mechanical communication between the deployment control and the grasping device includes a control wire having a first wire end and a second wire end, the first wire end connected to the grasping device and the second wire end connected to the deployment control.
 - 13. An endarterectomy surgical instrument comprising:
 - (a) a shaft having proximal and distal ends;
 - (b) a head coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the head having an endoscope port and at least one fluid port;
 - (c) a handle coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, the handle comprising:
 - a fluid supply port in fluid communication with the at least one fluid port on the head; and
 - ii. a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope; and
 - (d) a grasping device, the device having a retracted configuration and a deployed configuration wherein the grasping device extends away from the head in the deployed configuration.
 - 14. A method for performing endarterectomy for removing an obstruction from a blood vessel, the method comprising:

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- (b) providing fluid through the at least one fluid port of the head for separating intima and media layers of the artery surrounding the blockage;
- (c) grasping the blockage with a grasping device at the distal end of the endarterectomy instrument; and
- (d) removing the blockage through the incision.